



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY  
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ALEXANDRIA:  
THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 13, 1858.

As was announced in yesterday's Gazette, the bill for the admission of MINNESOTA into the Union passed the House of Representatives, on Tuesday. Mr. Stevens, of Georgia, closed the debate upon it, replying to the several objections which had been urged.—The pending amendment, reducing the number of Representatives to one, was rejected—yeas 72, nays 117; the substitute referring the bill to a new committee was also rejected—yeas 61, nays 141; and then the bill was passed by a vote of yeas 157, nays 38.

In the House of Representatives, on Tuesday, the joint resolution in favor of the abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, was discussed. The preamble, which was the important part of the resolution, was rejected—yeas 67, nays 99. Mr. Sickles, of New York, (who was understood to represent the views of the Administration,) spoke in opposition to the resolution, on the ground that it would embarrass pending negotiations, and tend to initiate a war policy. He incidentally defended the Case-Krisiari treaty lately negotiated with Nicaragua. Mr. Clay, of Kentucky, warmly defended the resolution.

The dreadful railroad accident, mentioned in yesterday's Gazette, occurred on the 11th inst., on the New York Central Railroad, caused the death of some seven or eight persons. Five or six more were seriously hurt, and over fifty injured. The accident occurred to the Cincinnati Express train, due at Albany at 6:30. The train was behind time at Whitehouse, and coming along at a high rate of speed, met on the bridge over the Sagitt Creek, the Utica accommodation train for the West, when the bridge gave way under the shock, precipitating the freight and engine into the creek, and piling the passenger cars, one above the other, complete wrecks. Those seriously injured were all upon the express train.

The Secretary of the Treasury has decided that flour manufactured in the British North American Provinces out of wheat, the product of the United States, cannot be imported into the United States free of duty, not being imported in the same condition as when exported. Neither can such flour be imported into the United States free of duty under the reciprocity treaty, as it is not an article of the "growth or produce" of said provinces, being manufactured of wheat, the produce of the United States.

The Senate has confirmed James M. Buchanan, of Maryland, as minister resident at Denmark, vice Mr. Bedinger, and Col. G. W. Morgan as minister resident at Portugal, vice Mr. O'Sullivan. They also confirmed the California appointments, including F. Tilford, naval officer, and C. H. Hempstead, superintendent of the branch mint at San Francisco.

The following sums are received per year by the several army officers named:  
Gen. Scott, \$18,222; Gen. Wool, \$8,854; Gen. Persifer F. Smith, \$8,189; Adj. Gen. Cooper, \$5,003; Major McDowell, \$4,020; Col. Totten, \$4,648; Gen. Harney, \$5,103; Col. May, \$3,519; and the general average receipts are, colonels, \$4,800; lieutenant colonels, \$4,000; majors, \$3,000; captains, \$2,500; lieutenants, \$2,000.

John M. Sharp, esq., the well known General Western Agent of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, died near Cincinnati, on Saturday last, of typhoid fever, in the thirty-second year of his age. Mr. Sharp was a practical printer, formerly one of the proprietors of the Cincinnati Enquirer, and a member of the council of that city.

Mayor Henry was inaugurated on Tuesday, in Philadelphia, in the presence of a large concourse of spectators. He made a brief address, in which he promised an economical supervision of the finances of the city, and the reorganization of the police, retaining such as are deemed worthy and dismissing those whose habits unfit them for service.

Mr. Faulkner, of Virginia, it is stated, has in contemplation a bill to establish a naval academy of surgery, for the education of surgeons in the navy, the same as cadets are now educated—the appointments to be given to the congressional districts.

Senator Bates, of Delaware, is fast recovering his health and strength, and we learn that his sight is entirely restored. There is every probability of his being able to take his seat in the Senate before the adjournment of the present session of Congress.

Thomas H. Boyington alias Smith, alias French, alias Wilson, with any quantity of other aliases, is shortly to be tried in Philadelphia, on the numerous charges of bigamy which have been preferred against him.—Three more females have appeared, who claim him as their "liege lord and master." A letter has been received, by the Recorder, from a lady in Brookfield, Ct., in which it is stated that this Smith was married to her several months ago, in the name of French; that he induced her to sell out her furniture and remove to Cleveland, Ohio. In that city he left her, taking off \$1,000 of her money, and leaving her in an almost destitute condition.

The May anniversaries are the absorbing topics at present in New York. The most extensive arrangements have been made for that of the New York Sunday School Union. One hundred and eighteen schools are to be represented.

It is stated in the New Orleans Pioneeer that there has been considerable excitement in that city occasioned by the sudden disappearance of a noted dealer, leaving sundry parties in the lurch, as is stated, to the amount of \$200,000.

There are ten candidates for the office of Commissioner of the Revenue in the 2d District of New Jersey county. In the 1st District Mr. T. Ashby, the present Commissioner, is running without opposition.

The debate on the bill to repeal the bounty to vessels engaged in the Bank and Coal Fisheries, goes on with spirit in the Senate.

The President, learning that Mohammed Pasha intends leaving soon for Turkey, has tendered him through the Secretary of the Navy, a passage on the Wabash, the flagship of the Mediterranean squadron.

Green Peas made their appearance in the Norfolk market on Saturday, in larger quantities than hitherto, and the price fell proportionably—\$3 per bushel being the highest.

We are indebted to Major Gen. T. Whittington for a copy of the Congressional Directory for the first session of the thirty-first Congress.

The health of the Hon. David S. Reid, one of the Senators from North Carolina, is much improved, and he is expected in Washington, in the course of ten days or less.

The Clerks of the House of Representatives are now installed in their new offices at the southwestern corner of the south Capitol extension.

The Paris Monitor publishes a decree ordering forty-two thousand additional soldiers into active service. The Bourse became heavy in consequence.

The marriage of the King of Portugal to the Princess Stephanie, of Hohenzollern, was celebrated by proxy at Berlin on the 20th.

Minnesota has already made choice of her Senators and Representatives, in anticipation of her admission. Gen. Shields and Mr. Rice are the Senators.

Mr. Hopkins, of Va., becomes chairman of the House committee of foreign affairs, by the resignation of Mr. Clingman.

There is no prospect of action on the Tombs' bankrupt bill at this session, though it may be considered probably at the next.

The bill reported on Tuesday, appropriating \$1,268,750 for ocean mail service.

Inundation Near New Orleans.  
The New Orleans Bulletin of the 5th inst. says:

"The conviction forces itself upon us that the present is one of the most terrible floods ever known upon the Mississippi and its tributaries. The damage already done is unquestionably great, and we fear the worst is to come. Both above and below the city crevasses have been made, and below us on both sides of the river. We hear that the rice plantations below, and many sugar plantations both above and below, will be for the time being seriously injured, and the crops to a great extent cut off. So far as the city is concerned, we do not apprehend any immediate danger. We understand the crevasses on the opposite side of the river have been given up. In addition to this, another crevasse having broken out on the same side of the river some fifteen miles above, it would not in the least surprise us if the waters of the two should connect with each other and inundate the plantations of St. Charles and Jefferson. We urge our authorities to sleepless vigilance in guarding this side of the river."

The New Orleans Pioneeer of the same date says:  
"The extremely high state of the river, owing in part to the action of the wind and tide, has caused the water to overflow the crown of the levee at various points in the vicinity of the city. Last night the force under the immediate supervision of the Mayor, consisting of twenty-seven carts and nearly a hundred men, continued at work until after 11 o'clock, when every spot where the water had made a breach, was effectually closed."

This morning a pretty strong force is engaged in raising the crown of the levee in the lower part of the Third and upper part of the Fourth Districts. This, however, is a matter of precaution, as the water is not as high as it was last night by at least three inches.—In three or four days at most the present rise will be past the city. The railroad track far above the crevasse is ten inches under water. Communication is cut off with the Marine Hospital, except by boats. The greater portion of Gretna is submerged; intercourse by land carriage between Algiers and Gretna is suspended, and the gardens on the right bank are nearly destroyed."

The Fall of Lucknow.  
The fall of Lucknow and the complete dispersion of the mutinous army of Sepoys assembled there, have so long been considered inevitable that the announcement of the result of Sir Colin Campbell's consummate generalship in turning his enemies into a position where they might be annihilated at a single blow, excites little attention, perhaps, than its importance demands. If, as is the opinion in England, to judge from what we learn from the London Times, which we publish to-day, the war be now virtually ended, it cannot but strike the most casual observer that the result is mainly due to those very means, the absence of which in the Crimean campaign had almost led to the conclusion that, except in native heroism, the British army had lost its ancient pre-eminence.

Incompetency in its generals, mismanagement in the command, blunders in all departments of the service, offset the valor of the troops at every step of that memorable siege, and not a few predictions were based of the decline of British military supremacy. Amid all the horrors of the Indian mutiny it is perhaps fortunate that England has had an opportunity to recover her military prestige, and to show that she still carries great general and troops, whose exploits have fairly eclipsed the glories of Alva, Balacava, or Waterloo. To Havelock, Outram, Wilson, Lawrence, Inglis, and the brave associates, who with mere handfuls of men encountered millions, and rolled back the tide of revolt, must be given the chief praise in this disastrous struggle, not for bravery merely, but for all the qualities of great commanders.

The Bids for Treasury Notes.  
The proposals for a five million instalment of Treasury notes, which had been advertised for, and which were opened on Monday by the Secretary of the Treasury, disclosed a very large offering. The bid amounts to the enormous sum of \$24,131,000, of which \$4,595,000 was offered at rates of interest below five per cent., \$15,371,000 at the rate of five per cent., and \$4,165,000 at rates exceeding that percentage. The lowest rate of interest proposed for was 3½. A very small amount was proposed for at as high a rate as six per cent.

The great magnitude of this offering proves two facts—namely, that there is a very large amount of idle capital in the country for the Government is unimpaired by its recent loans. We explained the other day the great improvement that had taken place in the commerce and business of the country, and how it was that the low condition of the Federal exchequer resulted from the very healthiness of business. The biddings of Monday prove that, whatever may be the temporary wants of the Treasury for a time, the restored health and vitality of the money affairs of the country will be promptly responded to by the mercantile classes.—Union.

Letter from Washington.  
Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.  
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 12, 1858.—The session of Congress is so near its end, that many subjects of national importance will necessarily have to be postponed until a future session, as will, also, numerous bills on private account, (and there is a very large number,) all of which might have been considered at the present session, had not the important time been consumed on that unprofitable topic, Kansas. It is, however, just cause for congratulation, that that subject is probably banished from the halls of Congress forever. The rejection of the Constitution by the people of Kansas can hardly be reasonably expected.

I looked forward, confidently, to the passage of a bill at the present session, authorizing the establishment of a National Foundry, being fully persuaded, that when that measure is passed, Alexandria will be the location selected. The advantages, all considered, which Alexandria presents for the location of this establishment, cannot be surpassed; and this I know to be the opinion of some in high position. It is certain, that the Secretary of War, himself an honored son of the Old Dominion, would, all things else being equal, prefer its location on Virginia soil. Its influence, if the measure be passed during his administration, will be used in that direction.

The necessary appropriation bills will probably all be passed in time to enable the Executive to deliberately examine them, before affixing his signature, so that, in the event of his disapproval of any of the items, he can return the bills to Congress in season for further action before the adjournment.

The House of Representatives has lapped off some of its excesses, in the shape of sinecure offices. On and after the 30th of June next, it will not be lawful for the Clerk of the House of Representatives to employ more than two draftsmen and three clerks on the work now being prosecuted, and known as "Land Maps." This whole work is the veriest humbug in existence, and, if of any utility, could be as well executed by one man as by twenty. The saving effected by the reduction of this force amounts to several thousand dollars per annum, for which retrenchment of useless expenditure, the country, as the delegates say, are mainly indebted to the efforts of Hon. John McQueen, a member from South Carolina. It is always an ungracious and thankless task to attack abuses which have grown up in the public service, and Representatives who have the independence to do it should be properly appreciated. However, the Congressional record of this gentleman proves him a man of talent, nerve, and firmness to sustain energetically whatever he believes right, and to unsparingly condemn whatever he may regard as wrong. I am glad to know that this gentleman is so highly appreciated by his constituents, for his sound abilities and inflexible integrity, that, in a series of several Congresses, he has had no competitor.

I learn, this morning, that the Comptroller of the Treasury Department has put his own construction on the 3d section of the Efficiency bill, (in relation to the extra compensation allowed to the employees of the late Congress,) which passed several days ago, and is now a law, contrary to the construction which the House put upon it when it passed. The House voted to pay all allowances, by the Committee on Accounts; but this gentleman will not pay any of the allowances made by the Committee on Accounts, except they were authorized by resolution of the House. I certainly suppose that the House of Representatives, taking them as a body, are as competent to construe a law as the honorable gentleman who presides over the Comptroller's office. The Efficiency bill passed after a long struggle, and the country is indebted to the efforts of Mr. Lecher, of Va., as the man who carried the bill through, and I am fully satisfied, (and I speak by authority,) that the 3d section of that bill never would have passed the House, had it not been for the laborious exertions of that gentleman. He, like the gentleman from South Carolina, has the talents, nerve, and firmness to sustain whatever he believes right, and to condemn what he thinks wrong.

South Carolina has been peculiarly unfortunate in the loss, within a brief period, of so many of her ablest and most cherished sons. The death of the accomplished and chivalric Butler, whose life we shall seldom see again, had scarcely ceased to be the common topic of conversation and regret, before we are called upon to lament the sudden demise of his former friend and colleague. He, who, but a few brief months before, proudly, with such evident anguish, and self-toll of tears and grief, descended to the tomb. The remarks that were made on the death of Senator Evans, by his colleagues, Gen. Hammond, in the Senate, and Gen. McQueen, in the House, were eloquent and well merited.

The admission of Minnesota into the Union, as one of the sovereign States, was decided in the House by the passage of the Senate bill, by yeas 157, nays 38—119 majority.—It was not a party vote. The Senators and Representatives will probably take their seats to-morrow.

The Hotel that has been talked of so long will be erected on Lafayette Square, and will cost, including furniture, \$400,000. Stetson, of New York, is to be the proprietor. He proposes that if \$150,000 shall be subscribed here, he will raise the balance in New York, and guarantee a dividend of 10 per cent. per annum to the stockholders. Speaking of Hotels, I think it will be conceded, that Newton's Mansion House, in Alexandria, is better managed, has better accommodations, better eating, &c., &c., than any of the Hotels in this city.

DESTRUCTION OF LIQUORS.  
THE DECISION OF JUDGE SHAW. PRACTICALLY ENFORCED.—The Journal states that on Saturday evening, as Chief of Police, J. E. May was walking down Bridge street, in East Cambridge, he saw a man who was probably intoxicated going into a place where liquor was sold by one Dillon. The man came out so badly soiled by one Dillon. He could not get along without assistance. Mr. Wiley came to the conclusion that a place kept in that manner was nothing but a nuisance, and concluded to abate it. Whereupon he entered the shop, spilled the liquors, and destroyed the utensils of the traffic. He next proceeded to a place on the same street, kept by one Philpott and Monahan, and there found four young men around the bar, with their glasses filled ready to drink. The Chief demolished the jugs and decanters, and going thence to a place kept by one Glasen, he in like manner destroyed the contents of jugs, &c.

LUNAS NATURAL.  
We have in our possession a most singular freak of nature, which we received from Mr. Simoni L. Minghini, of Middlebury, in Vermont. It is a double pig, or, more properly, essentially two pigs in one. This queer animal is about the size of a hog, and has two heads, two eyes, two ears, two noses, two mouths, and two tails. It is a singular looking affair, and is certainly one of the greatest curiosities we have ever beheld. This pig was one of a litter of eight, four of which are yet living.—Spirit of Jefferson.

The Late Charles Fenton Mercer.  
Charles Fenton Mercer belonged to a family distinguished in the history of our Revolution. We will pass over his family history, however, not being very familiar with it, and confine our remarks to his public life and character.

Mr. Mercer was first elected to the Legislature of Virginia, from Loudoun county, in 1810, and continued in that position till 1817, when he was elected to Congress. He took an active part in the debates of the Legislature during the period of his service, and was justly classed amongst its most talented members. He distinguished himself particularly in his advocacy of a call of a Convention for amending the old Constitution of the State. Upon that question he came in contact, on one occasion, with Littleton Waller. The well, the most powerful champion of the old Constitution, and an ardent advocate of a change in our organic law. On the subject of internal improvement, he was considerably in advance of his day; his fellow-members calling an enthusiast in the cause, and one of them telling him, in a speech, that he was born just one hundred years ago to fulfill his mission in behalf of roads and canals.

In 1817, Mr. Mercer became a candidate for Congress in the Loudoun district, to succeed Joseph Lewis, who declined a re-election. Mr. Mercer ran as the Federal candidate, against General Armstrong T. Mason, a distinguished and popular Republican, took the field against him. The district had been Federal from the first division of parties; John Adams having carried it against Thomas Jefferson in the first race between them, when the electoral vote was by districts. The canvass between Messrs. Mercer and Mason was active and acrimonious, and resulted in the choice of the former by less than one hundred votes. Out of this canvass, if we mistake not, grew the serious difficulty between General Mason and Col. Murtree, which ended in a duel with a fatal result to the former.

Mr. Mercer was re-elected to each succeeding Congress, if our memory is not at fault, till 1839, when he voluntarily retired to private life. Upon the national theatre to which he was called, Mr. Mercer took his position among the "star actors," and maintained it creditably for more than twenty years. During that period he participated with the most distinguished spirits of the House of Representatives in the most important questions that came before it for consideration and action. His name appears on the record as a speaker as well as a voter upon almost every proposition of general interest. He grappled in debate with many of the first minds of his day and always sustained his character well as a man of mark.

In his political sentiments, Mr. Mercer was a Federalist of the old school, and his votes on party questions were correspondingly with rare exceptions. He was disappointed in the election of Wm. H. Crawford for President in 1824, but, with that exception he never voted with his State in a Presidential election when there was a contest. He supported Mr. Monroe, as did nearly every body else, of every party, in Virginia and elsewhere.

In consequence of his zeal and enthusiasm in the cause of internal improvement, some of his friends denominated him "the Wit Clinton of Virginia." He was called, by the general consent of the country, to the Presidency of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and it was then (more than 30 years ago) coincidently believed that his conspicuous connection with that work would materially strengthen his claim to the title with which he was honored. But their bright anticipation in that respect was not realized; owing, however, to causes which neither Mr. Mercer nor any other man could control.

Mr. Mercer was a conspicuous member of the State Convention of 1829-30. As the chief of that Convention had been secured for the cause of the instrumentality of Mr. Mercer as that of any other man, his election was a matter of form and not of contest in a district in which there was an almost undivided sentiment against the old Constitution. In the Convention, he was among the most uncompromising and efficient champions of Western interests. With Doddridge, Cooke, Powell, Summers and others, he gained credit in the West in his "leading arms" with Eastern men of world wide fame. In discussing the Right of Basis of Representation and the Right of Suffrage, Mr. Mercer took extreme ground in favor of popular rights. His speech on the Basis of Representation was extensively circulated at the time, particularly in Western Virginia, and certain passages from it have been frequently quoted since. Among others, the following extract has been published in a book as a specimen of "true thought" and "equality of mind" written on his heart, and stamped upon his visage by the author of his being, after whose "express image," he was made. While other animals look to the earth—

Os hominis sublime deus ad sidera tollere vultus, his rights spring from his all-wise and his hands, and these he derived from God, the author of his nature. He cannot exist out of society because society is essential to his existence. His first relations are those of husband and father. That period which, in other animals, is short of dependence on a father's care, is in man protracted for purposes the most beneficent. The infant grasps his first instruction in his mother's lap, and, as the parent, she repays with kindness the kindness he has received. If the crutch drops from the feeble grasp of his sire, he picks it up and restores it to his trembling hand. Patriotism is but filial love enlarged. When we think of our country, we dwell on the memory of our early days, on the forms of those that gave us our being and watched over its infancy. When they are gone, we visit their remains and find the unconscious of our duties and the sacred cherishes virtues. Doubtless the Tartar wanders over the interminable plains of Asia, from climate to climate, accompanied by his flocks and herds; the Indian of America roams through forests yet more wild; but they revisit the tombs of their progenitors, and recount to their children the story of their deeds.

"Are not these natural affections at the foundation of all the moral rights and duties of a man?"

"Sympathy, is it not as natural to man as the great laws of nature? Is it not as natural to the generous animals which he gathers around him, as it is to these feelings spring from the elements of society?"

"Is there no property known to savage life? Even the bird defends his nest, as the lion does his den; the former with less vigor but with equal zeal. The hunter decorates his cave with the fur of the animals he has killed, and stores away in time of plenty the provisions which a season of want may require. He has his bow and arrow for the mountain deer, and when he approaches the water side, his canoe and spear for the fish and the water deer, and he is as ready to defend his tribe. In the absence of danger, armed with rods and instruments, he traverses the land and the water under the influence of the same feelings which prompt the civilized man to build habitations, to till the land, and to lay up the fruits of autumn for the necessities of winter. How can labor and property be separated? Property is at once the fruit and the spring of labor. The author of the Essay on the Human Understanding, in his treatise on civil government, tells us emphatically that he means by property, to denote the life, liberty, and all the possessions of a man."

After his retirement from Congress, Mr. Mercer left the State of Virginia. The newspapers reported him one time a resident of Florida, and at another, as a citizen of Kentucky. He took a somewhat active part in the Presidential election of 1852, for the reason perhaps that Gen. Scott was his warm personal as well as political friend. We heard of a glowing speech in the canvass, as we said at the time, with a single exception, we looked upon it as such a speech as might have been expected from one of his years and character. The exception to which we had reference, was the want of respect shown by the venerable speaker, in his comments upon President Polk, to the time honored sentiment of *Polk non nisi bonum*. His remarks in relation to Polk were decidedly personal and acrimonious. In every other respect his speech was an interesting one, and well calculated to conciliate political opponents.

Mr. Mercer spent several of the last years of his life in foreign travel. We saw it stated some two or three years ago, that he had made remarkable progress in the study of some of the modern languages during his sojourn in Italy. He was then about 77 years of age.

At the age of eighty, "fall of years and honors," Charles Fenton Mercer returned from foreign lands to "die at home at last." He breathed his last among the people who had so repeatedly honored him with their confidence, and to whom he must have felt we should gratefully apply the military title of *General* to the subject of this sketch, as we had it prefixed to his name in all the newspapers, past and present, and no doubt properly so prefixed, from the circumstance of his having held the commission of Brigadier General in the military service of the State.—Rich. Examiner.

The Crops—Prices, &c.

SELLING EARLY.—The Fredericksburg Herald says:—"We heard the other day of one sale of a growing crop of wheat by a river farmer, who will probably produce some four or five thousand bushels. The price was \$1—early delivery of course. In view of the great prospect ahead, the sale may be regarded as a very good one for the farmer."

The above paragraph is the foreboding of a poor crop of wheat for the coming year. Ever since last September, the tendency of this grain has been steadily downward, until the market has reached a rate which pays the farmer not one cent for his labor. Except on lands that have been so highly improved as to need no application of costly stimulants and fertilizers—lands that with such expenditures would average twenty-five or thirty bushels per acre—the culture of the wheat crop at present and prospective quotations, is a losing business. If the price of guano and super-phosphates, articles largely used on our wheat lands, had undergone a proportional reduction, the evil would not be so great—but what wheat has fallen upwards of one hundred per cent below its maximum price in the last two years, guano and the super-phosphates have scarcely receded at all.

In view of this fact, one of two things we think, must result. Either the wheat crop will be prodigiously curtailed where it requires the assistance of the expensive fertilizers above mentioned, or the farmers who are in a losing position will headlong on the general terms, which will have to pocket very heavy losses. A yield of ten or twelve bushels to the acre, which is above the general average in Eastern Virginia, is not, in our estimation, sufficient to justify a very enthusiastic adherence to this favorite crop, in the present extremely depressed state of the markets on both sides of the Atlantic—and there is no reason to expect any material change for the better, for several years to come. The annual production has under the present situation of the high prices of the last four or five years, reached an aggregate which far exceeds the consumption; and until this difference between supply and demand begins to be narrowed by force of the equalizing principle which governs trade in all its channels, but which works ordinarily by a slow and gradual process, there can be no reaction in the market that will indemnify the farmer to any greater extent than he is now indemnified, as far as the wheat crop is concerned.

It divides upon him, then, to determine in his own mind whether it is better for him to continue its cultivation as heretofore, or turn his attention for a few years to other crops that will pay him better. The subject, we confess is an embarrassing one. All descriptions of agricultural produce have in the last twelve months declined heavily in value, but we believe we may safely venture to assert that such a decline has not occurred in respect to wheat and wheat products, the least—and that consequently the latter is a better and surer reliance than the former in this period of general and severe depression of the markets, and their steady tendency to decay.

We are sorry that we cannot cheer our country friends with more encouraging representations on this head. After the buoyant and prosperous time they have had for the last few years, we can appreciate the revolution in their feelings upon having to grapple with such a situation, as we fear will rule the ensuing season. But, they will have the consolation to reflect that they have, for a series of seasons, been eminently blessed in this respect, and if they have prudently availed themselves of the opportunity to get out of debt and lay up for a rainy day, they can easily stand this ugly turn in the wheel of fortune. They can live comfortably, and enjoy themselves within doors over books and newspapers when the weather is bad, and when it is good, they can exercise themselves in the garden, and profitably in supervising their lands and improving them with home-made fertilizers and by a system of judicious tillage—and thus prepare for turning to the best account the reflux of the tide in commerce and financial affairs which will succeed, sooner or later, its present ebullition.—Petersburg Int.

Serious Charge.

On Friday last, Mr. W. A. Coleman was arrested and lodged in the jail of Chesterfield county, upon a charge of a very serious character. It seems that the prisoner resided at or near the Port Waltham Junction, immediately upon the line of the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad. Some time since a portion of fencing belonging to the accused was destroyed by fire, which, as he supposed, was communicated by sparks from a locomotive. Determined to avenge his wrongs, he maliciously placed a quantity of inflammable material to be placed upon the track of the railroad, and then applied the torch, thus damaging the company's property, and endangering the lives of passengers. The matter will come before an examining court to-day. It is a somewhat novel case to Virginia, and excites much interest in the county.—Petersburg Exp.

Business on the Canal.

The business upon this channel still shows an increase, and the week ending 5th inst. saw 193 boats left this place for tide water carrying 11,525 tons of coal. The total number of boats descending the canal since the resumption of navigation in March last, is 483, carrying 53,625 tons of coal. The gradual increase from week to week is certainly highly gratifying to all friends of the canal. The demand for coal is slightly increasing, and the Cumberland Canal and Iron Co. will, we think, begin shipping coal by canal from two to three times as fast as by additional increase in transportation.—Cumberland Chronicle.

Middleburg, Loudoun County, Va.

This quiet and beautiful village, situated in one of the most picturesque and lovely valleys in the State, deserves more notice than has been given it in the public prints. It is bounded on the East, by the Bull Run Range of Mountains, separating Loudoun from Prince William; while on the West, the splendid Blue Ridge looms up in lofty grandeur. The appearance of the country from Middleburg up to the very base of the Ridge, compares with any we have ever seen in any part of country. The lands are of an undulating character, and so well have they been managed by their experienced and excellent owners, that at this season of the year the very earth seems covered with a green carpet of velvet. We are not alone in the opinion that the landscape from Middleburg to the village of Paris, in Fauquier, passing through the village of Foppville, in the same county, will fully compare with any scene of country in our whole land. For long years, the farmers in this section have paid great attention to the improvement of their lands, which now, in the prices varying from forty to eighty dollars an acre. We have seen the rich valley of Smythe county, also the famed valley of Rappahannock, which were wrapped in the glories of Spring, but neither will compare with the undulating country extending from this lovely village, to the top of the Lordy Blue Ridge. A stranger from the more barren and less cultivated counties of lower Virginia, suddenly appearing in this part of the State, would be almost overwhelmed at the glorious scene presented to his astonished eyes. If it were the earnest farmer, who, from the banks of the lower James River, will for a time leave his lowland home, and in search either of health or beauty, come up and visit this Piedmont section, we will warrant that he will not soon be willing to return. But in describing the country around the village, we had almost forgotten to speak of Middleburg itself. The population of the town is estimated at from five to six hundred inhabitants, including some of the wealthiest and most public spirited citizens in Virginia.—Three first class stores besides many smaller ones, constitute some of the attractions of the place. Within the last year, the members of the Methodist Church, (Baltimore Conference) have erected in Middleburg a most elegant and substantial brick Church, which reflects great credit upon the liberality of the denomination. To Ed. C. Brown and Wm. Rolinos, esqrs., more than to any one else are due the credit of erecting the edifice, for by their untiring zeal and perseverance did they succeed in raising sufficient funds to finish it. We hear that it is proposed to dedicate this Church on the 4th day of next July—the day when the first stone was laid for the occasion—day when the prayers of the fathers of the revolution were raised to heaven for the deliverance of their country—prayers which were in a time most signally answered. The Episcopalians have also a very handsome brick Church, and lately they have finished a neat and commodious parsonage of the same material. The Rev. Mr. Knudsen is their Pastor, a worthy and estimable man. The cemetery on the outskirts of the village under the skillful management of Mr. J. W. Cline, has every thing the most improved appearance. A few years hence, before many years it shall remain in the same hands, it will be one of the most lovely and romantic spots in this beautiful valley. On the hill adjoining the Cemetery stands the old Cemetery Church, which is now used by both Presbyterians and Baptists alternately, as a house of worship. The Rev. Mr. Fletcher is Pastor of the denomination first named, and Rev. Samuel H. Rogers of the last. The religious feeling which has been so widely spread throughout the land of late, and the beneficial influence which now rises in all parts of the Union, has reached Middleburg, On Sunday evening, the 21st, a religious meeting was addressed most eloquently and appropriately by our able and accomplished Attorney General, John Randolph Tucker, esq. The house was filled to overflowing, and the talented and eloquent Orator was listened to with the most intense interest. J. R. Tucker combines in his character more elements of greatness than any young man we know of. In whatever situation he may be placed he never fails to make himself fully equal to the occasion. We know of no young man whose prospects for political preferment are better than Mr. Tucker's. Politics in this county was low, and there is very little excitement among the county candidates—nearly all the old officers will probably be elected. The first day of May was the warmest yet in this part of the country for a long time. The thermometer stood at 90° in the shade. We trust the heat will not improve as the summer approaches, for then August will find every body roasted. We had almost forgotten to speak of the Beveridge House, kept in town by Mr. Ed. M. Baker. Formerly there were two houses of entertainment in Middleburg, but last year Mr. Baker closed his Tavern, (Noland's old stand,) and leased the house he now occupies situated on Main street, the centre of the place. Mr. Baker, do every thing in their power to make their guests comfortable, and they deserve to be patronized. 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